THE INFLUENCE OF HYDROGEN BONDING ON THE SOLVOLYTIC REACTIVITY OF NICOTINATES IN FLUORINATED ALCOHOLS

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Abstract - A systematic investigation of solvolytic reactivities of allylic and benzylic nicotinates and their N-methylated derivatives in 80% EtOH, 97% TFE and *97%* HFIP was undertaken. The nicotinates in *97%* HFIP are slightly more reactive than the corresponding p-nitrobenzoates, whereas the ratio of these reactivities is inverse in *80%* EtOH and 97% TFE. This observation was explained by the stronger hydrogen bonding of HFIP with nicotinate leaving group than with the p-nitrobenzoate group, which is in keeping with the larger basicity of the former comparing with the latter group. N-Methylnicotinyl esters under the same conditions show approximately 50 times greater solvolytic reactivities than the corresponding p-nitrobenzoates. These relative reactivities are insensitive to the hydrogen bonding ability of the solvent. The UV and IR spectroscopic parameters of ethyl nicotinate and ethyl p-nitrobenzoate in fluorinated alcohols are fully consistent with this observation.

The effect of solvent on nucleophilic substitution reactions has been extensively investigated.¹ This effect has been ascribed mostly to solvent polarity, its ionizing power, nucleophilicity, solvating ability, and protic vs. aprotic character. Our recent investigations of solvolytic reactions in fluorinated alcohols² showed the significance of an additional solvent effect, namely the ability of these fluorinated solvents to form hydrogen bonds with leaving groups which possess hydrogen-accepting ability.

In this paper we report on solvolysis rate effects caused by interactions between fluorinated alcohols used as solvents and various nicotinates (3-pyridinecarboxylates), their N-methylated pyridinium derivatives, and p-nitrobenzoates as bases. Similar interactions were previously observed³⁻⁵ in alkaline hydrolysis of ethyl nicotinate in dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO). The increased solvation of this ester by DMSO (compared with EtOH as solvent) was explained by the interaction between the positive end of the sulfoxide dipole in DMSO and the lone pair on the

ring nitrogen. The 'H NMR data3 of this ester in DMSO, CHCl 3' and Ccl,, are consistent with the existence of such interactions.

The nicotinate group, introduced in this study as the leaving group in the solvolysis of allylic and benzylic substrates, possesses important advantages over the p-nitrobenzoate leaving group which was previously used in such investigations.^{2,6} Whereas the solvolytic reactivity of nicotinates significantly increases upon N-alkylation⁷, protonation, or even formation of hydrogen bonds with acids, the analogous p-nitrobenzoates are not so prone to these reactions and their solvolytic reactivity remains low. Furthermore, while the solubility of ordinary p-nitrobenzoates in water is negligible, nicotinates upon N-alkylation become fairly soluble in water enabling the study of bioorganic reaction mechanisms in aqueous solutions. In our recent work $\frac{8}{3}$ the hydrolysis of N-methylnicotinyl esters was investigated under micellar conditions, and various modes of micelles formed with these esters and aqueous sodium dodecylsulfonate solutions were studied by 'H **NMR.**

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Nicotinates la - 9a were prepared according to the previously described procedure^{2, o} for the synthesis of p-nitrobenzoates <u>1c</u> - <u>6c</u>. The resulting nicotinates were also converted with methyl iodide to the corresponding N-methylpyridinium derivatives $1b - 9b$.

1, R = CH₂CH₃ $\frac{1}{2}$, R = OCH₂C₆H₅ ⁷

a, Y = ONIC (HONIC = 3-pyridinecarboxylic acid, nicotinic acid) b, Y = ONMI (HONMI = 3-carboxyl-1-methylpyridinium iodide) $c, Y = OPNB$ (HOPNB = p-nitrobenzoic acid)

All esters $1 - 9$ were solvolyzed in 80 vol % EtOH, 97 wt % CF_3CH_2OH (TFE), and 97 wt % $(\texttt{CF}_{\mathfrak{Z}})_{\mathfrak{Z}}$ CHOH (HFIP). The rates were measured potentiometrically at a constant pH. Clear first-order kinetic behavior was observed in all cases. The kinetic results are presented in Table I.

Our previous investigations^{2,6} showed that the p-nitrobenzoates 1c - 6c solvolyzed in 80% EtOH and 97% TFE via a stepwise mechanism which includes the rate- -determining formation of an allylic cation as a reaction intermediate. The normal values of secondary α -deuterium kinetic isotope effects 9 obtained in the solvolysis of those esters are in keeping with the proposed reaction mechanism.¹⁰ For the solvolysis of both the nicotinates 1a - 9a and their N-methylated pyridinium analogs <u>1b</u> - <u>9b</u>, and in all the solvents studied, the normal values of secondary α -deuterium isotope effects were again obtained $(k_H/k_D = 1.20 - 1.27)$ confirming the uniformity of solvolysis mechanism for all esters $1 - 9$. ¹⁰ All these esters solvolyze with the heterolysis of alkyl-oxygen bond, and not with the alternative acyl-oxygen mode of cleavage which usually occurs in natural processes **11**

Table I. Rate Constants in Solvolysis of Esters $1 - 9$

 $^{\circ}$ 80 E is 80 vol % aqueous EtOH, 97 T is 97 wt % aqueous CF₃CH₂OH, and 97 H is 97 wt % aqueous (CF₃)₂CHOH.

b
Numbers in parenthesis are uncertainties of the last reported figure, i.e.,
1.37(1) = 1.37 <u>+</u> 0.01; uncertainties are standard deviations of the mean. 'Reference 6.

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d Reference 2a.

e
Reference 2b.

Such alkyl-oxygen bond cleavage is common in esters which can give stable carbocations.

The ratios of solvolytic reactivity of nicotinates 1a - 9a, as well as their N-methylated pyridinium derivatives 1b - 9b, and the corresponding p-nitrobenzoates <u>1c</u> - <u>9c</u> (defined as k(RONIC)/k(ROPNB) and k(RONMI)/k(ROPNB) ratios) show remarkably small variation with the structural changes in group R for a particular solvent (Table II). However, the k(RONIC)/l(ROPNB) ratio changes significantly with solvent; it is the smallest (0.44-0.47) in 80% EtOH, medium (0.84-0.88) in 97% TFE,

Table II. Leaving Group Rate Ratios in Solvolyses of Esters $1 - 9$.

and the largest (1.17-1.20) in 97% HFIP. These differences can be ascribed to the formation of hydrogen bonding between the alcohols used as solvents, and the leaving groups of esters acting as hydrogen acceptors.¹² The strength of such hyrogen--bonding interactions depends on the acidity of alcohol and the hydrogen-accepting ability of the basic part of the ester.

It is known⁷ that methyl N-methylnicotinate hydrolyzes about 100 times faster that methyl nicotinate due to the larger positive charge in the aromatic ring of the former ester relative to that of the latter. Therefore, the observed increase in solvolytic reactivity of nicotinates $1a - 9a$ (relative to that of the corresponding p- nitrobenzoates $1c - 9c$) in fluorinated alcohols can be explained by an increase of the positive charge on the nicotinate group due to pronounced hydrogen-bonding interactions. These interactions are stronger with the nicotinate than with the p-nitrobenzoate leaving group because of the larger basicity of the former. The most pronounced differences between the nicotinates $1a - 9a$ and p-nitrobenzoates $1b - 9b$ in hydrogen-bonding interactions appear with 97% HFIP, being the strongest acid among the alcohols used.

In the case of N-methylpyridinium derivatives $1b - 9b$ (where the heterocyclic ring has large positive charge) the basicity of pyridinium moiety is much smaller that that of pyridinyl group in nicotinates $1a - 9a$. Therefore the ability of pyridinium esters $1b - 9b$ to form hydrogen bonds with fluorinated alcohols is very small: it is similar to that of p-nitrobenzoates $1c - 9c$, but almost negligible when compared with that of nicotinates $1a - 9a$. The ratio k(RONMI)/k(ROPNB) is virtually the same (~50) with all solvents studied. Thus the solvolytic reactivity of nicotinates significantly increases upon methylation of a heterocyclic nitrogen, but *then* becomes insensitive to a hydrogen-bonding effect Of Solvent.

These hydrogen-bonding interactions were also studied by spectroscopic methods. The UV and IR spectra of solutions of ethyl nicotinate and ethyl p-nitrobenzoate in fluorinated and fluorine-free alcohols were recorded. With HFIP and TFE as solvents, the aromatic bands in UV spectra show a hypsochromic shift and a hypochromic effect relative to the reference values of λ_{max} and ϵ observed with i-PrOH as a solvent (Table III) These results are fully consistent with the known¹³ UV parameters of

Solvent	Ethyl nicotinate		Ethyl p-nitrobenzoate	
	a $\Delta \lambda_{\text{max}}$	$\Delta v_{\text{max}}(C=C)^D$	а Δλ max	$\Delta v_{\text{max}}(C=C)^{b}$
	nm	$c\,\mathfrak{m}$	nm	cm
i -PrOH	0.0 ^d	0.0 ^e	0.0 ^f	0.0 ^g
EtOH	0.5	2.0	0.5	0.5
TFE	4.5	7.0	2.5	1.5
HFIP	7.5	13.0	3.5	2.0
HCl		40.0		2.5
Quatern.		45.0		

Table III. Spectral Data of Ethyl Nicotinate and Ethyl p-Nitrobenzoate in Various Alcohols as Solvents

aHypsochromic shifts of aromatic band relative to the reference value of λ_{max} in i-PrOH as a solvent.

b Shifts of the aromatic C=C vibrational band toward larger wavennumbers relative to the reference value of v_{max} in i-PrOH as a solvent. 'Data for ethyl N-methylnicotinate in KBr pellets. λ_{max} = 307.5 nm $e_{v_{\rm max}}^{\rm max}(C=C)$ 1594 cm⁻¹ $\frac{1}{2} \lambda_{\text{max}} = 310.0 \text{ nm}$ $\frac{g_{v_{\text{max}}}(C=C)}{1610 \text{ cm}^{-1}}$

protonated aromatic heterocyclic compounds. The observed hypsochromic shifts are far more intensive in the case of ethyl nicotinate than of ethyl p-nitrobenzoate, confirming the stronger hydrogen-accepting ability of the former comparing with the latter ester.

Ethyl nicotinate upon N-methylation or protonation shows in IR a large shift of the vibrational band which corresponds to the aromatic C=C bond. This band is shifted towards larger wavenumbers relative to the value for ethyl nicotinate in i-PrOH as a solvent (Table III). This result can be explained by a decrease of electronic density in the aromatic ring¹³ of ethyl nicotinate upon protonation or N-methylation. A similar effect, although less pronounced, was observed in IR spectra of solutions of ethyl nicotinate in fluorinated alcohols.On the contrary, ethyl p-nitrobenzoate is almost insensible to this effect. The corresponding aromatic IR band of this ester shows very small shifts (relative to the value for sample in i-PrOH as a solvent) not only with fluorinated alcohols as solvents, but also in HCl solution.

In conclusion, our results show that the better hydrogen-accepting ability of nicotinates compared with that of p-nitrobenzoates is reflected in a greater sensitivity of their solvolytic reactivity and spectroscopic parameters to a change in hydrogen-donating ability of a solvent. Also, the reactivity of

N-methylnicotinates, being significantly higher than that of the corresponding p- -nitrobenzoates, could be of special advantage in studies where solvolyses in water are to be investigated.

EXPERIMENTAL

Infrared spectra of samples in KBr were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 257 Spectrometer. 1 H NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL FX-90Q spectrometer. Signal positions were given in 6 units, with tetramethylsilane as the internal standard. All new compounds were characterized by **¹** H NMR and IR spectroscopy and in some cases also by elemental analysis.

The nicotinates $\frac{7a}{16}$, $\frac{8a}{36}$, and $\frac{9a}{56}$; N-methylnicotinates $\frac{7b-9b}{56}$ and p-nitro-
benzoates $\frac{1c}{2a}$, $\frac{2c}{16}$, $\frac{3c}{2a}$, $\frac{4c}{5}$, $\frac{b}{2b}$, $\frac{5c}{2b}$, $\frac{6c}{2b}$, $\frac{8c}{64}$, an characterized as previously described.

Synthesis of Compounds

Following the published procedure 8a nicotinates $1a-$ 6a and N-methy lnicotinates 1b-6b were prepared according to Scheme 1.

2-Butyl-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyl Nicotinate (1aH)

Yield 92%; IR 3090, 3060, and 3040 (Ar-H), 1720 (CO-O-C), 1595 (C=C), 1285 and 1120 (C-O), 750 and 710 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H); ¹H NMR (CDC1₃) δ 9.23, 8.76, 8.30 and 7.35 (4H, four m, nicotinyl), 5.50-5.70 (1H, broad s, 0 -CH), 1.73 (3H, s, C=C-CH₃), 0.95-2.15 (15H).

2-(3-Butenyl)-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyl Nicotinate (2aH)

Yield 91%; IR 3080, 3060, and 3040 (Ar-H and C=C-H), 1720 (CO-O-C), 1645 and 1595 (C=C), 1282 and 1120 (C-O), 916 (HC=CH₂), 750 and 710 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 6 9.18, 8.68, 8.27, and 7.33 (4H, four m, nicotinyl), 5.80 (1H, m, C=CH), 5.50-5.70 (1H, broad s, 0-CH), 4.95 (2H, m, C=CH₂), 1.73 (3H, s, C=C-CH₂), 1.40-2.30 (IOH).

2-(2-Methoxyethyl)-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyl Nicotinate (3aH)

Yield 93%; IR 3090, 3060, and 3040 (Ar-H), 1720 (CO-O-C), 1594 (C-C), 1283 and 1120 (C-O), 750 and 710 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H); ¹H NMR (CDC1₃) 6 9.19, 8.74, 8.33 and 7.37 (4H, four m, nicotinyl), 5.50-5.70 (1H, broad s, O-CH), 3.36 (2H, t, OCH₂), 3.24 $(3H, s, OCH₃)$, 1.76 (3H, s, C=C-CH₃), 1.20-2.37 (8H).

Anal. Calcd. (%) for $C_{16}H_{21}NO_3$: C, 69.79; H, 7.69; N, 5.09 Found $(*)$: C, 69.50; H, 7.84; N, 4.88

2-(2-Benzyloxyethyl)-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyl Nicotinate (<mark>4aH)</mark>

Yield 91%; IR 3080, 3050, and 3030 (Ar-H), 1722 (CO-O-C), 1598 (C-C), 1295 and 1120 (C-O), 753, 712, and 692 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H); ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) 6 9.18, 8.73, 8.35, and 7.37 (4H, four m, nicotinyl), 7.31 (5H, s, C_6H_5), 5.37-5.62 (1H, broad s, $O-CH$), 4.42 (2H, s, Ar CH_2), 3.45 (2H, t, OCH_2CH_2). 2.41 (2H, t, OCH_2CH_2), 1.73 $(3H, s, C=C-CH₂), 1.45-2.20 (6H).$

2-(3-Methoxypropyl)-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyl. Nicotinate (5aH)

Yield 97%; IR 3090, 3060, and 30¹⁰ (Ar-H), 1720 (C3-O-C), 1596 (C=C), 1285 and 1120 (C-O), 760 and 710 cm⁻¹ (Ar-H); ¹H NMR (CD₂OD) 6 9.15, 8.74, 8.35, and 7.40 (4H, four m, nicotinyl), 5.30-5,57 (1H, broad s, O-CH), 3.48 (2H, t, \underline{CH}_2O), 3.41 (3H, s, OCH₃), 1.72 (3H, s, C=C-CH₃), 1.40-2.50 (10H).

2-(3-Benzyloxypropyl)-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyl Nicotinate (6aH)

Yield 93%; 1R 3100, 3070, and 3040 (Ar-HI, 1722 (CO-O-C), 1598 (C-C), 1285 and 1125 (C-O), 752, 712, and 690 cm $^{-}$ (Ar-H); 'H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 9.17, 8.73, 8.35, and 7.42 (4H, four m, nicotinyl), 7.31 (5H, s, C_6H_5), 5.35-5.60 (1H, broad s, OCH), 4.42 (2H, s, ArCH₂), 3.48 (2H, t, CH₂OBz), 1.73 (3H, s, C=C-CH₃), 1.40-2.50 (10H).

1-Methyl-3-(2-butyl-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyloxycarbonyl)pyridinium Iodide (1bH)

Yield 91%; IR 3100, 3065, and 3040 (Ar-H), 1720 (C-O), 1640 (C=N-CH₂), 1595 (C=C), 1295 and 1125 (C-O – 750 and 680 cm⁻⁻' (pyridinium); 'H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 9.58, 9.27, 8.97, and 8.24 (4H, four m, pyridinlum), 5.20-5.65 (lH, broad e, 0-CH), 4.47 (3H, s, $N^{\text{+}}$ -CH₃), 1.75 (3H, s, C=C-CH₃), 1.30-2.60 (15H).

l-Methyl-3-[2-(3-butenyl)-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyloxycarbony1]pyridinium I odide $(2bH)$

Yield 83%; IR 3090, 3060, and 3030 (Ar-H). 1722 (C-O), 1647 and 1595 (C=C), 1642 (C=N--CH₃), 1295 and 1125 (C-O), 920 (HC=CH₂), 750 and 680 cm^{-'}(pyridinium); 'H NMR (DMSO-d₆) 6 9.50, 9.25, 8.95, and 8.21 (4H, four m, pyridinium), 5.82 (1H, m, C=CH), 5.40-5.70 (1H, broad s, O-CH), 4.98 (2H, m, C=CH₂), 4.49 (3H, s, N^t-CH₃), 1.71 (3H, s, $C=C-CH_2$), 1.40-2.20 (10H).

l-Methyl-3-[2-(2-methoxyethyl)-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyloxycarbonyl~pyridinium Iodide (3bH)

Yield 87%; IR 3090, 3060, and 3040 (Ar-H), 1730 (CO-O-C), 1642 (C=C⁺-CH₃), 1595 (C=C), 1295 and 1125 (C-O), 750 and 680 cm⁻¹ (pyridinium); 'H NMR (DMSO-d₆) $6, 9.50, 9.20, 8.95,$ and 8.25 (4H, four m, pyridinium), $5.18-5.80$ (1H, broad s, 0-CH), 4.49 (3H, s, $N^{\text{+}}$ CH₃), 3.39 (2H, t, OCH₂CH₂), 3.31 (3H, s, OCH₃), 1.74 (3H, s, $C=C-CH_3$), 1.30-2.40 (8H).

Anal. Calcd. (%) for $C_{17}H_{24}$ INO₃: C, 48.92; H, 5.80; I, 30.40; N, 3.36 Found (%): C, 48.80; H, 5.91; I, 29.93; N, 3.14

l-Methyl-3-[2-(2-benzyloxyethyl~-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyloxycarbonyl]pyridinium Iodide (4bH) -

Yield 84%; IR 3100, 3070, and 3040 (Ar-H), 1730 (CO-O-C), 1647 (C=N⁺-CH₃), 1600 (C=C), 1296 and 1125 (C-O), 756 and 670 cm⁻¹ (pyridinium); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) 6 9.50, 9.18, 8.92, and 8.25 (4H, four m, pyridinium), 7.31 (5H, s, C_6H_5), 5.30-5.70 (1H, broas s, 0-CH), 4.49 (3H, s, $N^{\text{+}}CH_{3}$), 4.42 (2H, s, $\underline{CH}_{2}Ph$), 3.49 (2H, t, OCH₂CH₂), 2.40 (2H, t, OCH₂CH₂), 1.74 (3H, s, C=C-CH₃), 1.30-2.50 (6H).

1-Methyl-3-[2-(3-methoxypropyl)-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyloxycarbonyl]pyridinium Iodide (5bH)

Yield 87%; IR 3090, 3060, and 3040 (Ar-H), 1730 (CO-O-C), 1642 (C=N⁺-CH₂), 1598 (c=c), 1300 and 1127 (c-0), 755 and 670 cm⁻¹ (pyridinium); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) 6 9.50, 9.17, 8.89, and 8.28 (4H, four m, pyridinium), 5.30-5.70 (1H, broad s, 0-CH), 4.48 (3H, s, N⁺-CH₃), 3.38 (2H, t, CL_2 OCH₂), 3.31 (3H, s, OCH₃), 1.74 (3H, s, $C=C-CH_2$), 1.20-2.50 (10H).

l-Mathyl-3-[2-(3-benzyloxypropyl)-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyloxycarbonyl]pyridinium Iodide (6bH)

Yield 83%; IR 3100, 3060, and 3040 (Ar-H), 1730 (CO-O-C), 1643 (C=N⁺-CH₃), 1598 (C=C), 1298 and 1125 (C-O), 757 and 670 cm⁻¹ (pyridinium); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) 6 9.45, 9.15, 8.88, and 8.25 (4H, four m, pyridinium), 7.30 (5H, s, C₆H₅), 5.30-5.60 (1H, broad s, 0-CH), 4.48 (3H, s, $N^{\text{+}}CH_3$), 4.44 (2H, s, \underline{CH}_2 Ph), 3.43 (2H, t, OCH₂CH₂), 1.72 (3H, s, C=C-CH₃), 1.20-2,50 (10H).

2-Butyl-1-deuterio-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyl nicotinate (1aD), 2-(3-butenyl)--1-deuterio-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyl nicotinate (2aD), 1-deuterio-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyl nicotinate (3aD), 2-(2-benzyloxyethyl)-1-deuterio--3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyl nicotinate (4aD) 1-deuterio-2-(3-methoxypropyl)-3-methyl--2-cyclohexenyl nicotinate (5aD), 2-(3-benzyloxypropyl)-1-deuterio-3-methyl-2cyclohexenyl nicotinate (6aD), 1-methyl-3-(2-butyl-1-deuterio-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyloxycarbonyl)pyridinium iodide (1bD), 1-methyl-3-[2-(3-butenyl)-1-deuterio--3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyloxycarbonyl)]pyridinium iodide (2bD), 1-methyl-3-[1-deuterio-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyloxycarbonyl]pyridinium iodide (3bD), 1-methyl-3- $[2-(2-benzyloxyethy1)-1-d$ euterio-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyloxycarbonyl]pyridinium iodide (4bD), 1-methyl-3-[1-deuterio-2-(3-methoxypropyl)-3--methyl-2-cyclohexenyloxycarbonyl]pyridinium iodide (5bD) and 1-methyl-3-[2-(3--benzyloxypropyl)-1-deuterio-3-methyl-2-cyclohexenyloxycrbonyl]pyridinium iodide (6bD) gave IR and ¹H NMR spectra fully consistent with their structure. All these compounds had deuterium content >98% d (by 1_H NMR).

KINETIC MEASUREMENTS

Reaction rates were measured by continuous automatic potentiometric titration of the liberate acid 16 by means of a pH-stat (Radiometer, Copenhagen). In each measurement ca. 0.03 mmol of the ester was dissolved in 15 mL of solvent and the liberated acid titrated with 0.025 M NaOH solution in the same solvent.

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